

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Griffin Industries

Mississippi Technology Alliance

International Military and Government Secures Contract to Build MRAP Vehicle

Client Profile:

International Military and Government (IMG), located in West Point, Mississippi produces mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles. The company employs 400 people.

Situation:

IMG contacted Mississippi State University (MSU) requesting assistance in the start-up of a new automotive facility to support the production of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle for the U.S. military for use in Iraq to protect troops from roadside bombs, improvised explosive devices and other threats. This request was forwarded to MSU's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Extension (CAVS-E), a partnering center within the state's Mississippi Technology Alliance (MEP.ms), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

Solution:

As part of the MSU CAVS-E team, the MEP.ms Center played a key role in the commercialization and production start-up of the MRAP. Initial work included the evaluation of prototype vehicles from the standpoint of improving manufacturability. The primary work of the MEP.ms Center involved the design and implementation of the full-scale manufacturing system. This effort included the design and construction of the assembly lines, and acquisition of key capital equipment (e.g., cranes, paint booths, ovens, and conveyors). In addition, a rapid simulation model was developed which was used by senior managers to make facility construction decisions, in advance of actual operations.

Results:

- * Secured contract in excess of \$620 million to build 1,200 MRAP vehicles.
- * Fulfilled Department of Defense request for key product to fight war on terror.

Testimonial:

"With assistance from the MEP.ms Center at CAVS Extension, we were able to conceptualize, budget, and provide a transition plan to create the highest production output facility supporting the MRAP program. Over the next 11 months, the planning has become a reality and our West Point manufacturing facility has become the premier plant for this product supporting the warfighter and saving lives."

David Creasap, Manager, Business Development